



Women For Women in Africa works with the women and children of Kibera, Africa's largest slum, by providing education and resources to enable them to live a life of dignity, happiness and hope for the future.

Newsletter DECEMBER 2017

2017 from Marguerite with thanks and ❄️ Christmas Wishes ❄️

Leonida writes that the Centre is full of laughing, happy children, enjoying the small playground, the lunch and the friendship of other children. They are also doing remedial studies, reading and having special time with the staff who help them with their problems and plans for their future.

This year, through our education sponsorship program, Women for Women in Africa has been able to educate 272 students; 97 in Primary, 107 in Secondary, 55 in Post-Secondary and 13 in the Informal School at the Centre. We are delighted that we have been able to get sponsorship for the 13 children in the Informal School so that they can resume their education and attend Secondary School in 2018.

Several students have graduated this year and have been able to find employment. These students are very grateful, as are all the children, for their education and for the friendship and support of their sponsors. Three or four times a year I receive a large bundle of letters, written by the students to their sponsors. I happily post these on knowing that the recipients will be very pleased to hear from their child. The children are also very happy to receive correspondence from their sponsors – they love to know that they are part of an Australian family.

The Staff at the WkW Centre are truly dedicated and are supported by volunteer students who may have completed their education or are awaiting notification of the post secondary courses.

The Centre has also given many women the opportunity for skill training and are making clothes, bags and jewellery – all very saleable.

Our plans for a school, on land purchased at Kitengela, are being reviewed and we hope early in 2018 to be able to advise how best this land can be used and any details of future expansion. We continue through Wanawake kwa Wanawake, our partner in Nairobi, to give education, hope and care to the families of Kibera.

The Directors of Wanawake kwa Wanawake; Michael Buckley, Aleks Kulesza, Richard Ruskin, Glenn Smith, Peter Toms, Tino Marget and Marguerite Ryan, could not make this difference without the wonderful support of Australians who give so generously to families, far away, who they may never meet. We thank you for your amazing support and ask you to tell your family and friends what we are able to accomplish. The Directors, together with the staff of WkW and the families of Kibera wish you a very happy Christmas and every blessing for 2018.

Marguerite A Ryan AM



Journey of hope, growth, resilience and gratitude. A reflection from high school section by Mbasa Benjamin

GRATITUDE

2017 is coming to an end and from the high school department, we cannot afford to fall short of gratitude to the very many students who we take care of, the parents from Kibera whom we closely walk and work with towards the journey of empowerment and proper care of their children, we also put a special focus on our sponsors who have done everything possible within their means to ensure that our operations and activities as an organization remain active and prosperous this whole year. The sponsors and other benefactors have certainly

shared their resources with us not because they have **surplus** but because of their **sacrifice** they make not only to the needy children and people of Kibera but to the entire humanity. We remain faithful, grateful and aggressively true to our call to stewardship and taking care of the children that we support. **Thank you so much** our dear Sponsors. It is through “**great you**” that we can effectively and sufficiently take care of the needy children from the slums of Kibera. As the great African Ubuntu philosophy goes ‘**I am because you are.**’ A relationship that is inspired by love and justice.



GROWTH

We currently have 107 students in high school section alone. They are all in boarding schools. Boarding schools are much safer and learning is continuous. Children also love boarding schools because there is sufficient food. Our children love food and lots of it. My greatest joy comes when I see these children grow into strong, beautiful and

intelligent young men and women. The growth is both physical, emotional, psychological and spiritual. It is delightful to watch a boy or a girl blossom into a young adult before our very own eyes. My greatest satisfaction however, derives from the fact that I have been given the opportunity to experience, walk with, guide and assist these students in this great journey of growth.

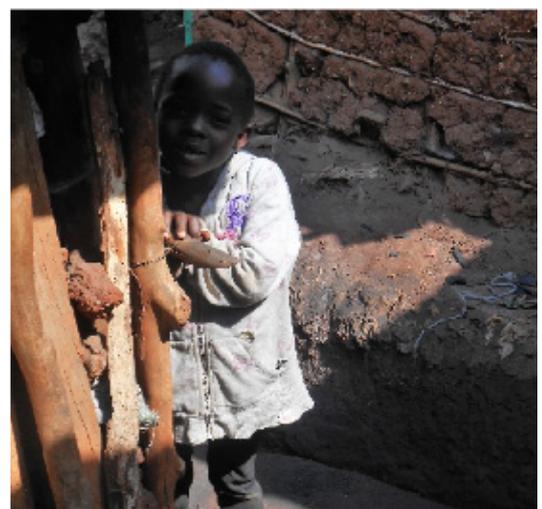
We get them from the Kibera slums when they are young, feeble and weak, very vulnerable and most of the time abused. Usually, we find children whose dreams and dignity have been robbed by the cruel reality of poverty in Nairobi urban slums.

My duty has been to walk and journey with these children up to the point where they can begin to believe in themselves. We help them restore their dignity. Most imperative to me is the point when the children begin to have self-awakening. They begin to reclaim their dreams back and have their vision as well. The children begin to realise that there is a world other than Kibera. They begin to recognise the reality that Kibera with its sprawling poverty is not just and right. The children begin to realise that they are not chickens but eagles who should be flying so high. This is the turning point after which they get self-drive and power to succeed.

To achieve all these, the organisation has been open to many visitors, friends, sponsors and other volunteers who willingly come to the Centre to interact with the children.



These interactions always bear growth, inspiration, hope and resilience. It is my hope that we shall get many visitors and well-wishers in the future who will again come to meet these children, interact with them and to encourage them. Our objective has been always to help a child to achieve holistic growth. This we achieve through such exchange programs, sponsorship programs and mentorship programs



Household economic strengthening programs, a wider sustainable approach

On average, a family in Kibera has four to five children. As an organisation, we respond by sponsoring one child in every family. Sometimes the need is so much that we sponsor up to 3 children in the same family. Our desire is always to spread our help to as many different families as we can. When one child is sponsored in a family and the rest of the remaining children are not sponsored, experience tells us that conflict may arise among siblings and parents. Because one may begin to feel more special than others. As an organisation, we have been confronted with overwhelming reality of destitution of families in Kibera slums. Sponsoring one child in a family is very good and now we are seriously thinking on how best we can enable the family to create wealth so that as we support one child, other family members may as well benefit and live a dignified life. This is where the women's vocational Centre comes to play. It is such a beautiful initiative.

The Organisation Wanawake Kwa Wanawake works with the women of Kibera in wealth creation. The Organisation offers a space and a vocational centre where women from Kibera learn technical skills, beadworks and sewing skills. My favourite program for the women still remains Table Banking. This is a Micro-finance initiative. Apart from learning the skills in tailoring, women sit down around the table every Friday. Here at the table they transact, save and loan money to one another. They also have great opportunity to talk and share among themselves. This helps them to relieve stress brought to them by their husbands..., ha! So they say.



I have not confirmed his yet!!! The micro-finance activity enables women to build their business, using the money to pay for their hospital bills, buy medicines, buy food etc. In return, the whole family benefit and other children whom we do not sponsor can have opportunity to go to school, eat and celebrate just like the ones we sponsor. I am watching slowly as this great Organisation turns to a very powerful transformative instrument here in Kibera. What a great joy to be part of this Organisation then! We only experience the challenge of how to pay for a teacher who will constantly train these women. Teachers are very expensive.



LOVE AND CARE

Lots have happened during this year to all our students. It is in this year that girls and women in Kibera got 'Knickers' from Australia. Our women had complained that they were losing husbands to other women and they could not understand why until they realized that it was due to "KNICKER ISSUES." By bringing the knickers to the women of Kibera, you did not only save marriages, you protected the dignity of the women and by extension created an environment where a child will not suffer due to one parent leaving home or divorcing. The young girls are happy and we have received a lot more things like food, clothing and shoes. We bless you all for your courage to love and to care. We would like to thank you again so much our dear sponsors and friends of the Organisation for your support, donations and friendship to both children, families of Kibera and to us at WkW.



VIOLENCE IN BOTH SCHOOLS AND KIBERAN SLUMS

This year, some of our students stayed home for few days because their schools had been set ablaze by other fellow students. Some students who are dissatisfied with either the programs of the school or education do set the schools ablaze. Our students only suffered loss of personal property but survived unharmed. The recent school to burn down in Nairobi was a girls' high school which killed over 9 students. Precautions are being made to make sure the students are safe in school. The political events in Kenya also has been on fire. Kenya has gone through a very strage political and electoral process in the year 2017. The democratisation in Kenya is strange but all I know is this whole process has affected our programs. With no promise of stability and peace, we cannot promise safety to the children whom



we care for and whose homes are in the slums. My wish is that we shall one day have a rescue centre or an orphanage. With an orphanage, security and safety of the children can be achieved.

K.D.F- Kenya Defence Force- Is this food or?

This is a short conversation which took place recently in the morning between a staff member and one young beneficiary, a 5-year-old.

Staff: Hello, Good morning Geoffrey!

Geoffrey: Fine.

Staff: What did you take for breakfast before coming to the centre?

Geoffrey: Tea and K.D.F.

Staff: What did you say? (Staff member looking very confused at this moment)

KDF is the initial for the Kenya Army. It simply stands for Kenya Defence Force. There is no relationship whatsoever between the breakfast and the Kenyan Army the boy is talking about. But why would The KDF find its way to the breakfast table of a young Kibera child? Closer conversation revealed that the KDF represents power, energy and strength of might. The Kibera people have taken these characteristics and transferred them to this little piece of doughnut that both parents and children of Kibera love so much. The size of KDF is actually the same as a teenager's fist.



They say one KDF a day keeps hunger away. KDF costs 10 Kenyan Shilling (about 12 cents) each. A child is entitled to one piece of KDF in the morning. They take it in the morning with black tea and the next meal, if they are lucky, will be at night at 8:00 pm before they go to sleep. What happens to the child during the day is anybody's guess. This is the major reason as to why we allow sponsored children to come to the Centre daily when they close schools because they can be fed, and they can play with one another. At the Centre, the children take tea and bread in the morning, rice with beans, sometimes they take pasta and soup, Ugali and vegetables etc. We make sure they take a balanced diet. An orphanage or a Home will be good to these children because there will be constant meals, security and a playground

❄️ Merry Christmas ❄️

We would like to wish all of you a merry Christmas and a happy New Year 2018. Most children in Kibera now are preparing to celebrate the big occasion with their families and friends.

Usually, on Christmas day, the families in Kibera go to church in the morning after which they come back for lunch. Lunch will probably have a chicken for those who can afford it and most won't. Chicken on a table is a symbol of festivity to many families in Africa. One chicken may cost between 3 to 6 USD.

After lunch, the family moves out to go and visit other relatives and friends or they become hosts to many friends and families. The day ends that evening with a meal together as a family for those who will afford it or KDF may as well be introduced. Most husbands do not go to church regularly together with their wives and children but on Christmas day, the family go to church together, eat together and celebrate together.



Merry Christmas to you all from Mbas Benjamin!

Orphan Care Project

The board of WFWIA has very recently decided to stop our school building project, sell the land at Kitengela and consider an urgently needed project enabling better care for our orphans. WFWIA consider the cost of building a school is prohibitive in our current situation. We have many sponsored orphans ranging from total orphans to single orphans to abandoned children. All goes moderately well for them when they are attending boarding schools but at the end of each school term, most have no safe place to call "home". We asked the WKW trustees their opinion about this new project and they agree with us that orphan care is a priority.

At present we are exploring all of the possible options of caring for our orphans, Kenyan regulations and beginning to look for available land or houses near our current WKW Centre on the outskirts of Kibera. Much more thought and analysis must go into this project before a business plan can be made for it, but for the sake of our orphans, they need our help.....now. We will keep everyone up to date with this exciting and important new project as we move through our planning stages.

Erica Hammond Education Scholarship Fund



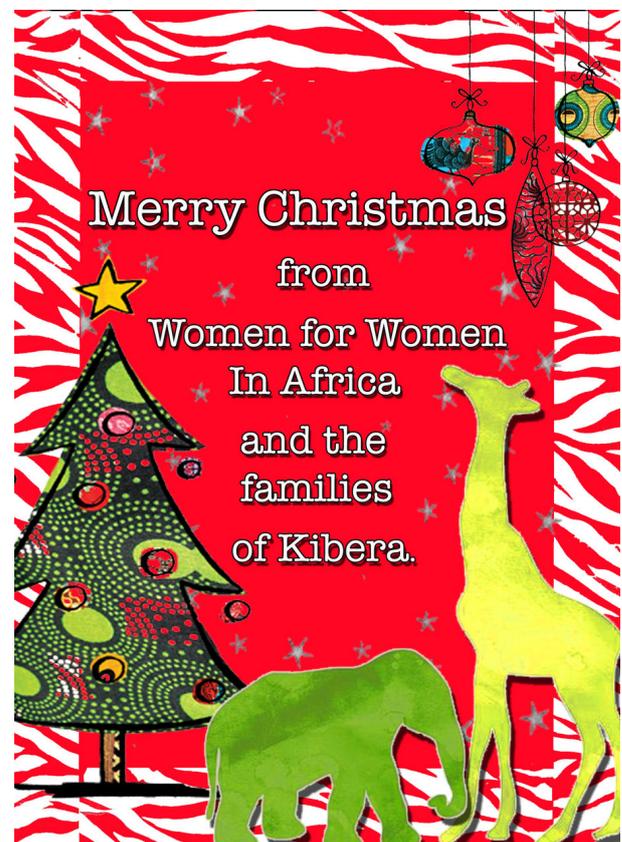
This fund was very kindly created by family members of Erica Hammond naming it in her honour. Erica always had a huge interest in education and this is a logical extension of it.

The fund's trustees are asking all WFWIA supporters to consider adding to the existing funds available. The fund is for post-secondary students who do not have a sponsor but who need to undertake either a short bridging course or a short vocational course before they could have a chance at finding employment.

Five recipient students are either in a course or recently finished courses ranging from computer training, hairdressing and nursing assistant courses.

More details about the Erica Hammond Fund can be found on our WFWIA website at

<http://womenforwomeninafrica.org.au/education-sponsorship/>.



WKW CULTURE: Year 2017

Sr. Kevina Ekal.

It's the end of the year 2017 already. Yes, 2017 has been a good year. We have had a blessed year and greatly so, we can boast because we had supportive people behind us who lifted us and made all our dreams for the year come true. It's our culture in WkW to express this. So much has been achieved all because of our able supporters.

Working with these small people has really been a blessing for me. I have found myself crying and laughing heartily when with them. When I got employed in WkW, I was assigned the primary school pupils. I was wondering how I will manage that given that the background in which the small ones were coming from was quite different from the typical rural areas I had been in ministry. I then challenged myself to take up the challenge. I told myself that my best foot has always to be forward never backward. And immediately I found myself with Little Geoffrey who had just been reunited with his widowed father and 3 other siblings. He got school placement in a boarding school.

There is always a sense of fulfilment when a child does well in school and when he or she strives to be responsible in life. That gives me joy and courage to go on.

I have also seen them grow to embrace basic courtesy as they mingle and socialize with others and the staff. For example, I teach family rules to be used in the society, thank you, please, sorry, may I, knock the door, excuse, etc.

I have seen a child lose sponsorship. The cause is sometimes the child not wanting to go to school. It's heart breaking because some of them are just from very poor backgrounds.

My heart breaks when the children don't seem responsible or even serious with their studies. Sometimes I am called to visit schools when one or two have been mischievous.

I have always found it hard finding places for orphans to live or stay during school holidays. Single parents who are living HIV positively make me think a lot about a probable orphan that will be left behind when the parent dies.

To me it has been an experience of learning and growing together with the children. How I wish we could have a safe place for our children.



What do we do when we are at WkW Centre?

Our program at the Centre takes into consideration what we are able to do. We start the day by thanking God when we come together, we do our creative work according to the week. The first week is always for updating records and writing letters. The children always write and have to finish their school assignments. The staff help a lot in coordinating the program. The times of events change accordingly depending on day of the week. For example, when there are visitors, then the program changes to accommodate the visitors.

For example this is a typical holiday program.

CLASS	08.00-08.30	08.30-10.30	10.30-11.00	11.00-13.00	13.00-14.00	14.00-15.30	15.30-16.00
NURSERY -STD 3	Arrival & Settling	Requesting for items Letter writing	B R	Letter writing & updating request forms & files	L U	Assignments Prayer	C L E A N
STD 4- STD 6	Arrival & Settling	Requesting for items Letter writing	E	Letter writing & updating request forms & files	N	Assignment Prayer	U P &
STD 7 & STD 8	Arrival & Settling	Requesting for items Letter writing	A K	Letter writing & updating request forms & files	C H	Assignment Prayer	T I D Y

Knickers for Nairobi

My primary school pupils received undies. Two of them had this to say.

Christine Onduso: Hi Marguerite, How are you? I hope you are fine. The aim as to why I am writing this letter is to thank you for the beautiful undies that you sent us. We feel nice that you love us. Many people look at our undies and admire them. They are really nice.

The undies from Australia are very different from the ones we buy from the market. The ones we buy from the market wear out very fast. My fellow pupils in school admire them so much. We thank you and may God bless you.



Michelle Adhiambo: Thank you so much for the undies you sent us. They are super different from the ones we buy from the market. The material in which they are made from is very strong and attractive compared to the ones we buy in our country. When we hung them on the lines, many people admire them and say that they would also want to have some. We are usually given some each and every time we close and open school. We feel good and nice when we wear them. Truly, we are very grateful for the undies



What WkW organization means for a child

Five of the primary school pupils had this to say about what WkW and WFWIA means for each one of them.

Valentine Oigo:

My name is Valentine Nyaboke Oigo. I was born in 2005. I am 12 years old. I go to school at Rudan Junior Academy and I have just finished my Kenya Certificate of Primary Education Examination (KCPE). I am waiting for my results so that I transit to secondary school.

I was born in a family of four sisters. My parents passed on in 2007, when I was 2 years old. You can imagine being left by your parents at the age of two.

In 2010, I got sponsored by Wanawake Kwa Wanawake. I was not sponsored alone, but together with my three sisters. By this time, I was joining a boarding school.

My sisters were also in the same school. Well, normally, when we closed school for any holiday or mid-term break, we always went for tuition at the Centre.

Perhaps, I find this interesting because instead of staying at home or roaming around, you spend that time studying, and besides, you also get to play and interact with friends.

Moreover, we also get food. We take breakfast and lunch. I cannot confuse the delicacy because surely, the food is sweet. Sometimes, we are given clothes we go home. I think this organization needs a standing ovation. The clothes are given to everyone. Besides all these, we get a chance to watch movies, especially Biblical and animation. This to me is very educative and inspirational.

Talking about my family, my second born sister is almost completing her university studies. She is studying film production. I think she is completing her studies this December, 2017. My third born sister is in form one, promoted to form two next year. I think she likes or enjoys learning and studying. She is very sharp, I can say that.

For me, I am just relaxing, trying to study form one work. I just finished my class eight exams and eagerly waiting for best results. To reap what I have sowed for eight years.

I thank my sponsors very much and all the staff members at the Centre for their support. I have learned a lot and I don't know how I can thank them for all that they have done for me.

It has been seven good years and from my experience, I think if only I had a chance to announce to the world about the Centre, for real, I could have done that.

Also, I want to thank the sponsors, not only mine, but also, for the rest of the students.

We are all very grateful and we sincerely appreciate for your help.

It is very obvious that the love you have given us is unconditional. We also love you very much. We always pray for you, your safety and sound mind. We pray that at least one day, God willing, we will meet and share a lot with you.

Even more, after my late sister's death, the organization did not just say sorry but also lent a helping hand by taking in my younger niece and nephew, Charles and Blessing.

This is very good of them. Who could imagine that one day they would also go to a boarding school like my sisters and I. Though they lost their mother, at least, they are comforted by being taken to school. Charles is in nursery, while Blessing is in pre-unit in the same school; White Cottage Primary school, and I can tell how grateful they are. They can speak fluent English unlike before when they could not utter even a single word in English.

We as a family, are very grateful and happy for the support and happy for the support, and that is why every day when we wake up, the first thing is to thank God.

Surely, we have come from grass to grace. At least, I know now, I can stand in front of a crowd and confidently thank Wanawake Kwa Wanawake for every way they have supported us. I thank my wonderful Australian sponsors, a family, who have looked after our whole family. Lastly, I once again want to thank everyone, whether young or old. Never forget that we love you unconditionally. Never start your day with broken pieces of yesterday because every day you wake up, marks the first day of your life. Happy December holidays. God bless you.

Denis Ochieng:

Normally, when schools are closed, roaming around, staying at home and playing are the things most pupils do. The Wanawake Kwa Wanawake provides activities for the children that are out of the norm. They get a chance to interact with each other, have fun and learn.

Rather than spending a lot of time playing at home, especially those that are not constructive, the Centre provides us with so many nice story books to read, we are also provided with meals; breakfast at ten O'clock, and lunch at one O'clock.

We also get a chance to play several games, for example, basketball, football, and chess. We normally have a lot of fun. We also get a chance to catch up with news because we are also given newspapers at the Centre which we don't get at home because no one ever buys them.

Generally, the importance of Wanawake Kwa Wanawake in the lives of many children is significant and vital in many ways. Much thanks to Wanawake Kwa Wanawake Organization.

“Never forget that we love you unconditionally. Never start your day with broken pieces of yesterday because every day you wake up, marks the first day of your life.”

Edwin Oluoch:

Normally when we close schools, we come here at the Centre to do our homework, eat and play. We first record our names at the reception desk before we go to class.

At ten O'clock, we go for tea break, and sometimes, we are given porridge. We play for thirty minutes before going back to class. At one O'clock, we go for lunch, then play before going back to class at two O'clock.

This is the time when we sometimes watch movies, and we leave for our homes at four O'clock.





Elizabeth Atieno:

Thanks to this organization for all the great things that they have done to me. On behalf of my fellow pupils, we are very grateful to Wanawake Kwa Wanawake for the service that they have offered us from the bottom of their hearts. We have been able to go to school like other pupils out there, having been bought all the necessities that we need for our schooling.

This organization has been able to buy us better things so that we can succeed as they have high hopes and high expectations from us. We put on nice uniforms that they have chosen for us. And above all, the organization ensures that we have everything we need in school. The quality shoes that we get are beyond what our parents can afford. Actually they are durable and they put us in the same class as those children from well to do families.

I must say that we are very proud to be part of Wanawake Kwa Wanawake family, since it has really done great things to many needy children from the slum, to help them to go to school. In return, we are also striving and doing our level best in our studies so as not to let them down.

Thank you once again.

Joshua Angwekwe:

First and foremost, I would like to thank all the Wanawake kwa Wanawake staff and women for Women for playing an important role in the society. Without them I wouldn't be where I am right now. Wanawake kwa Wanawake organization has been part and parcel of the community.

I can remember when I had no hope in life but when they got me and took me in, now I am heading somewhere. School fees was a major problem. They didn't hesitate to help me. Not only me but a lot of people. All of us have a dream in life, don't we? Well with Wanawake kwa Wanawake lending us a hand in education we believe that our dreams will one day be realized.. Among us are engineers, pilots, doctors just to name a few. All these will come to pass and be fulfilled just because we have a helping hand with us. The friends of Wanawake kwa Wanawake have done has good and we are proud of you all. Wanawake kwa Wanawake has granted all our wishes. Will that stop us from thanking them? Not only thanking but also working hard because that's what they need from us. May God bless Wanawake kwa Wanawake so that it can help more less fortunate children. The friends of women for women are our soft landing space in life. I would like to be grateful and I am all gratitude. God bless the entire organization.



CHRISTMAS GIVING

All around the world people celebrate Christmas as a time for gratitude, togetherness and generosity. Life in Kibera is a daily struggle with no electricity, running water or toilets. Help make it a special day for our families in Kibera by providing them with a 'Present'.

\$5

Will buy a book for a child to own.

\$15

Will buy a new pair of shoes, shirt or dress.

\$20

Will give a Christmas lunch to a family of 10

\$50

Will provide basic food (rice, flour & beans) for 2 months for a family.

\$100

Will provide basic health cover for a family for a year.

\$1250

Will educate a student in boarding school for a year.

This year please purchase 1 more present and send it to a family in Kibera so they can be touched by the Spirit of Christmas.

Please make donations payable to Women for Women In Africa
BSB 033 059 Account No. 660 872 Reference 'Christmas Giving'

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